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## Taking chances for a good cause

Safari Niagara has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society for a unique fundraising event. Page 7

## Putting it in Park

Port Colborne councillors sided with businesses along West St. when it comes to parking. Page 16

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## Champions



FRANKI  
WELMAN/  
POSTMEDIA  
NETWORK  
Georgia  
Wade and her  
horse  
Beau at Rivendell  
Farms in Port  
Colborne.  
See story  
page 2.

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# UPFRONT

■ **EQUESTRIAN:** Fonthill girl and her Beau

## Young rider earns dressage gold in Kentucky

**FRANKI KEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

The horse-trailer was a little bit heavier as it left Kentucky. It was hauling a gold medal after a week of competition, after all.

Sixteen-year-old Georgia Wade of Fonthill, with her equine partner, 14-year-old thoroughbred/draft-cross

Beau, competed as part of the Canadian team at the North American Junior and Young Riders Championships in Lexington, Ky., July 14 to 19.

Wade competed in both the individual dressage test and as part of the Ontario Junior dressage team with three teammates from across the province. Together, the four young riders rode to a team score of 200.920, earning them a spot at the top of the podium.

"With the team, it made it quite a bit more relaxed because you have all those girls around you helping you out and supporting you, so it was a lot of fun," said Wade.

She has been riding for about 11 years, starting in the hunter-jumper discipline and moving into the world of dressage about four years ago.

"I've always loved dressage. I like jumping and I like hunter, but that's not where my passion is. So when we found Janet, we kind of went with it," she said.

She moved her leased pony to Rivendell Farms in Port Colborne to ride with coach Janet Henderson.

"Georgia has been beyond her years in dedication right from the start," Henderson said of her young student.

After competing at the Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships in Calgary a couple years ago, Wade and her family decided to look for a horse to buy and compete with. They purchased Beau in October 2013 and began to work on getting him to where he is now.

"We brought Beau home and I have to say, we have a pretty amazing team here at the barn," said Henderson.

Her daughter is an equine veterinarian, her son a farrier as is her son-in-law, and she said the teamwork between the four of them has allowed Beau to maintain optimal health, an important factor that allows



Georgia Wade and her horse Beau at Rivendell Farms.

FRANKI KEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

him to compete and work on such a demanding schedule.

"Between the four of us and Georgia's good work, we are where we are. But it's absolutely a team effort," said Henderson. It seems to have paid off.

Wade and Beau took home a gold in the team competition and placed in the top 25 (out of 47 competitors in their division)

in the individual test.

Henderson said Wade competed very well in her individual test, with a clean ride and no mistakes, but the competition was tough.

"There was one horse there competing who was in the 2012 Olympics at three levels above," she said.

Wade said Beau did an "awe-

some" job.

"From what we were getting last year to this year, it's a big improvement, and I'm very proud of him," she said. "He gave me his all every time we went into the ring."

Said Henderson: "The nice thing about Beau is that he is extremely junior/amateur friendly. He went into that facil-

ity and just went to work."

Wade said one of the best parts of the International competition, which included competitors from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, was getting to meet a lot of different competitors from different disciplines.

"We met eventers, endurance riders, jumpers and they

were all very supportive," said Wade.

"It feels great because we're all coming from the same spots. We're all coming from the lower levels, working our way up, trying to find a horse and all working towards this."

franki.keman@postmedia.ca  
Twitter: @FrankiKeman

# LOCAL NEWS

■ **COMMUNITY:** Members to advise health system

## NHS planning a cancer patient council

GRANT LAFLECHE  
Postmedia Network

There came a point when Sandy McBay couldn't accept what she was hearing. She'd already absorbed the worst news. She had breast cancer.

She was initially told she would not need chemotherapy, and the prospect of avoiding the physically draining side effects put a silver lining on the diagnosis.

But things changed quickly.

Her oncologist told her the cancer was a particularly aggressive type, and in fact the best course of action would be chemo.

"So I asked for my scans to be reviewed by another doctor, and then I had them reviewed again," McBay said. "My doctor was very patient and supportive."

The reviews confirmed the treatment plan her doctor recommended. McBay said the process allowed her to better accept what was coming, and made her feel part of her treatment process.

As co-chair of a new Niagara Health System patient council for the Walker Family Cancer Centre, she hopes to help other cancer patients feel just as empowered.

"It's very important," McBay said. "At the time, I needed to hear it again."

The NHS is looking for cancer patients, cancer survivors and their families to join the council, which will advise the NHS on how to improve the patient experience at the cancer centre.

McBay said the council will be made up of 70% of patients and their families and 30% NHS medical staff.

She said they are aiming for a mix of past and current cancer patients.

New patients are sometimes so overwhelmed by the diagnosis of cancer, and the emotional maelstrom that creates, they are unable to digest the information they're given, McBay said.

So she expects one of the issues the council — which is likely to begin work in September — will tackle is how and when patients get information.

Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, NHS medical director of oncology, said the formation of a patient council has been in the works since the new cancer centre opened. The council won't provide medical advice, but will offer insight and input into the patient experience and guidance on how to improve it.

People interested in joining the council should phone the NHS at 905-378-4647 ext. 49142.

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POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, shown in a file photo, is helping form an NHS cancer advisory council.

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**I'VE BEEN THINKING**

# In God's image

**PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK**

Waiford Congregational Christian Church

**T**hat man was created in the image of God means that life is important, valuable and sacred from the womb to the tomb. Being made in the likeness of God means that people are to reflect the characteristics of God albeit in a diminished capacity.

Abortion as a form of birth control or performed for the sake of convenience is always wrong and sinful. "When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:15 and 16).

The embryo is an individual living human being having 23 chromosomes from the male and 23 from the female, further to this the embryo has his or her own sex, his or her own individual fingerprints, and his or her own DNA which is different from the mothers. In China if the baby is a girl it is often tossed out as refuse to either be eaten by wild animals or to die of exposure or starvation.

One particular woman knowing what would happen to her baby girl put her in a cardboard box then laid her in front of an orphanage.

The man who adopted her said, "though I don't know who that mom is I thank God for her and every day when I come home from work that little girl comes running up to me with a smile, jumps into my arms, yells Daddy and gives me the biggest hug you could imagine."

She is made in the image of God. What about a child with Down syndrome? There will be a difficult road ahead but they should be loved and protected for they are very special as anyone who has raised or worked with them will surely attest. They are no less than anyone else in terms of value, dignity and worth having been made in the image of God.

Yet an estimated 92% of all women who receive the diagnosis of Down syndrome choose to terminate their pregnancies. On the other end of the spectrum we have the emotionally charged and highly controversial issue of euthanasia. Are euthanasia and physician assisted suicide acts of mercy or should we always engage in heroic efforts just

to keep people alive?

Can this be merely prolonging their death. Should powerful medicines be given to keep their pain under control when in fact increased dosages while minimizing the pain is in fact killing that person. I have had first hand experience in these ethical decisions during the passing of my grandmother, my mother and my father. It can be extremely difficult in knowing where to draw the line between caring for the dying and killing the living.

In some countries doctors will help people take their own lives if they are depressed or just sick of living. Is capital punishment murder? No-murder is the intentional killing of an innocent human being. Self-defence is justified as is a just war. A life for a life.

Some people say that is Old Testament law but God gave the sword to human government (Romans 13:1-4). Jesus knew that Pilate had authority from God to take human life.

(John 19:11). If capital punishment had not been in effect Jesus would not have been able to die for our sins. (1 Peter 2:24).

What about cloning? We can repair life but not duplicate it. Know one can play God - fetal experimentation, stem cell research, preserving fertile eggs while destroying others is wrong and sinful.

Progoraphers do not view people as being made in the image of God but only as objects to be degraded and use the trafficking of children for ill gotten gain.

Alternative lifestyles do not view people as made in the image of God. God created man and women in His image to compliment each other. Eve was taken out of Adam - the Hebrew Word Ishah is for women and Ish for man. She was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.

This marriage parallels Christ as the bridegroom and the church as his bride.

Knowing Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior, knowing God's Word and knowing that man is made in the image of God will give you a solid foundation for all of these difficult ethical decisions.

And like that little girl you can jump into the arms of Jesus your "daddy" as He gives you the biggest hug imaginable. For you were made in God's image. (Genesis 1:27)

## Shipwrecks - Elazig

**SKIP GILLHAM**

For Postmedia Network

**T**he Turkish freighter *Elazig* was a Great Lakes trader in 1970.

The ship had been built a decade earlier at Drammen, West Germany, and had briefly sailed as *Marosa* before being renamed later the first year.

The 116.26-metre-long cargo ship spent 28 years under this name and most of the service was apparently on Mediterranean area routes.

It ran aground at the entrance to the Dardanelles on March 27, 1983, on a voyage from Istanbul, Turkey, to Yugoslavia, but was released after four days. It resumed service but was laid up at the anchorage off Istanbul on Jan. 15, 1987, and was struck there by the passing freighter *Quixada* on Dec. 20, 1987. The idle vessel received



Elazig is pictured in this undated photo by Alex Duncan, courtesy of the Brockville Museum Collection.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

heavy bow damage and was declared a total loss.

As a result, the hull was sold to Turkish

shipbreakers and arrived at Aliaga under tow for dismantling on Sept. 25, 1988. While the ship was unlikely to operate again, the colli-

sion, while minding its own business in the anchorage, spurred the decision the scrap the vessel.

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## If a tree falls in cottage country ...



GREG FLEMING/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A downed tree, supported by hydro wires, closed through access to the quiet beachfront community at the south end of Wyldewood Rd. on the morning of Wednesday. A local cottager identified it as an elm tree suffering Dutch elm disease, and pointed to several of the dying species nearby.

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Heather Price

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■ **COURT:** Jeremy Hall to stand trial again, accused of bullying Kelvin Sawa into taking his own life

# Retrial ordered in jailhouse death

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

A convicted Hamilton murderer

accused of intimidating a fellow inmate into taking his own life will be tried again, after his first trial ended in a hung jury.

Jeremy Hall, a notorious career criminal, was awaiting trial on murder charges at the Niagara Detention Centre in 2011 when he par-

ticipated in the beating and abuse of Kelvin Sawa of Port Colborne.

Sawa, allegedly at the urging of other inmates, eventually hanged himself in his cell.

Hall, 41, made a brief appearance in assignment court in Welland Monday.

"We are surprised and disappointed that they have decided to retry Mr. Hall, despite the fact the jury heard two months of evidence and couldn't reach a verdict and find him guilty," said Stephanie DiGiuseppe, one of Hall's lawyers.

Sawa's family could not be reached for comment Monday.

After Judge Joseph Henderson declared a mistrial in June, Lisa Sawa, Kelvin's younger sister, left the courtroom crying. A short time later outside the courtroom, she said: "It's just so unfair. It's not fair. I know how victims feel."

At the trial, the Crown argued Hall fashioned the noose Sawa, a 46-year-old taxi driver, used to hang himself and instructed an underling to deliver it to his cell.

They argued Hall so controlled the other inmates that though he did not personally cajole Sawa into killing himself, he was nonetheless guilty of murder.

Sawa was in jail after being charged with sexual assault and sexual interference involving a 14-year-old boy, but

those allegations were never proven in court. Sawa was on remand, awaiting trial.

"There are some things that can change, but it will be another two-month trial with the same evidence," DiGiuseppe said. "The Crown has the option of calling additional evidence if they have it."

"Obviously, with the witnesses they have, they weren't able to get a verdict of guilty the first time."

No date has been set for the second trial.

"It is something we will have to sort out with the court and the Crown, but it could be as late as spring or summer of 2016," DiGiuseppe said.

In March, Cale Rose, another inmate who was at the detention centre when the hanging took place, pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter in connection with Sawa's death.

As part of his plea agreement, Rose was called to testify against Hall by the Crown.

Hall is already serving a life sentence for a murder that took place in 2006. He was found guilty by jury of first-degree murder in March 2013 for the shooting death of Billy Mason in Hamilton.

— With files from Postmedia

Bill.Sawchuk@sumedia.ca  
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**PATRICK'S POSTS**

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## ■ FEARLESS CHALLENGE



MIKE ORRATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Six-year-old Mason Risto of Welland makes his way through the SkyQuest rope course at Safari Niagara in Stevensville. Safari Niagara has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society for a unique fundraising event that encourages people to confront their fears.

# What are you afraid of?

ALISON LANGLEY  
Postmedia Network

## THE FEARLESS CHALLENGE

- Fundraiser for Canadian Cancer Society
  - Now until October
  - Create or select a challenge, set and meet a fundraising goal, then complete challenge
- [www.FearlessChallenge.com](http://www.FearlessChallenge.com)

Acrophobias unite. Safari Niagara has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society for a unique fundraising event that encourages people to confront their fears to help those living with cancer do the same.

Participants in the Fearless Challenge create a challenge online or select from a list of challenges. There are a wide range of challenges listed, including skydiving, bungee jumping, being covered in spiders and eating strange food.

Once they reach their fundraising goal by collecting pledges, participants must commit to facing their fears and completing their challenge.

Participants with acrophobia — a fear of heights — are invited to tackle the daunting SkyQuest Ropes Course. The multi-level course takes participants as high as 15 metres off the ground while tethered to a harness.

"I don't know the statistics but I would imagine there's a high ratio of people who are scared of heights," said Dave Keith, director of sales and marketing at the Stevensville nature park.

There's no way to keep track of how many people will face their fears at the SkyQuest because participants register online, but Keith says "if we get three people or 100 people through, it's still great exposure for the cancer society."

Money raised through the challenge will fund cancer research as well as support services for cancer patients and their families.

"The Canadian Cancer Society is committed to creating a world where no Canadian fears cancer, but we are not there yet," said Sue Dalos, the agency's senior manager of marketing and development.

"Safari Niagara is a perfect fit for people to face their fear of heights." Participants who raise a minimum \$250 for their challenge will receive a discount on gate admission to Safari Niagara.

The Fearless Challenge continues until October.

For more information, please visit [FearlessChallenge.com](http://FearlessChallenge.com).

[alison.langley@sunmedia.ca](mailto:alison.langley@sunmedia.ca)  
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# CALLING ALL COUNTRY FANS!

## "Country Classics Live" Comes To Port Colborne Theatre



The music of Johnny Cash starring Jim Yorlido comes to the Roselawn Theatre in "Country Classics Live" on August 29 & 30

Calling all Classic Country music fans! Don't miss the amazing "Country Classics Live" when it comes to the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne for two spectacular shows on Saturday, August 29th at 8pm and Sunday, August 30th at 3pm. "Country Classics Live" features world-class tributes to Johnny Cash, John Denver, Tammy Wynette, Glen Campbell and Loretta Lynn.

Starring as "The Man in Black" is the amazing Jim Yorlido, widely regarded as the top Johnny Cash tribute artist in the world. The Roselawn show also features the multi-talented Jack London celebrating the music of the legendary Glen Campbell and John Denver. As a special bonus, the dazzling Pam Yorlido will pay tribute to the "Queens of Country".

Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn. Musically, "Country Classics Live" delivers a knock-out show filled with timeless Country hits including "Ring of Fire", "Take Me Home Country Roads", "Stand by Your Man", "Galveston", "Boy Named Sue" and "Coal Miner's Daughter" amongst other audience favourites.

Tickets to see "Country Classics Live" at the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne on Saturday, August 29th at 8:00pm and Sunday, August 30th at 3pm are on sale now. Value-priced at only \$29 (all inclusive!), tickets are available by phone 905-834-7572, or via pick-up at the theatre box office at 296 Fielden Avenue. Don't miss "Country Classics Live" when it comes to Niagara!

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## FINANCE



**ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK**  
Rob Noyes holds a \$10-trillion Zimbabwe bill, which is worth less than the paper on which it was printed.

## \$10 trillion doesn't go far these days

Postmedia Network

It's a \$10-trillion bill from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. And it's worth about \$7.50.

At least that's what Coins Unlimited owner Rob Noyes is selling them for at his Niagara St. business in Welland. The bills, printed by the thousands in the developing African country, are actually worth less than the paper they're printed on because of the collapse of Zimbabwe's economy.

Noyes said staff at Coins Unlimited did the math and determine that: "Monopoly money is worth more."

Noyes bought the bills on eBay and spent more on shipping his purchase to Welland than he paid for the actual currency. But he's confident there's a market for the money.

"It's just the novelty," he said. "Even business guys and bankers, you show it to them and they're like 'Wow!' Who would ever think they would see a note that large."

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■ **TRAVEL:** Chinese travellers chose Honeymoon Capital

## Niagara Falls high on China's bucket list

**TONY RICCIUTO**  
Postmedia Network

Niagara Falls might not be at the top of their list, but they love us in China.

The Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, the Eiffel Tower in France and Venice in Italy are world landmarks that rank higher on the list of places Chinese travellers have on their bucket list, but Niagara Falls on the Canadian side remains a contender in the eighth spot followed by the Acropolis of Athens in Greece and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

According to global accommodations booking website Hotels.com, Chinese travellers like to see the world and don't mind spending money along the way.

While Australia, Japan and France are the most desired countries they are expected to visit in the next 12 months, cities including Toronto, Montreal and Niagara Falls are top spots among Chinese travellers.

That latest news comes as no surprise to Niagara Falls Tourism chairman Wayne Thomson.

Up until a year or two ago, he said travel was restricted by the Chinese government, but that has been lifted and we are one of the destinations they want to visit.

"Millions of people now have the opportunity to travel for the first time. There are many affluent people in the orient and one of the destinations they have

on their bucket list is to see the Falls," said Thomson.

He noted that major events like the Nik Wallenda walk across Niagara Falls that was seen around the world certainly had an effect on people wanting to come here.

"The more publicity we get worldwide and people see it, it's a natural. We have so many things here now, not only the falls, but with the park system, the environment, entertainment and the opportunity for gaming has really stimulated that with the Toronto oriental population and that would certainly cater to people in China."

One survey forecast has found that in four years' time, outbound Chinese travellers could number about 174 million, spending about \$343 billion Canadian annually.

Thomson said he would have thought Niagara Falls would have come in higher than number eight on the list, but thankfully we are one of the world icons that people want to see during their lifetime.

Fifty-nine percent of hoteliers surveyed say they've experienced an increase in Chinese guests aged 35 or under in the past year.

In addition, in 2014 the average Chinese international traveller spent \$653 per day, including accommodation, with most spending their cash on shopping, dining and sightseeing.

## showboat theatre

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### SameTime, Next Year



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# New furniture bank location a busy place

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

They are piled in stacks, half-way to the ceiling.

Simple chairs. Wrapped mattresses. Chests-of-drawers and end tables, interlocked like pieces of a puzzle.

The is the scene inside Niagara Furniture Bank, which recently moved to 53 Ontario St.

In St. Catharines from its former Welland site.

Its mission — to collect gently used home furnishings for people and families in need in Niagara.

Those receiving the low-cost items are referred by organizations like Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Programs, Canadian Mental Health Association and Family and Children's

Services and Gillian's Place.

"This is about giving people and families the essentials they need to start out," said operations manager Jon Dakin.

People arrive after experiencing all kinds of life issues.

"It can be former abusive situations, previous addiction problems. Typically, we don't know their background... it is done through a referral basis only from an (agency) that assesses the need."

The bank became a charity in 2008. It got its first delivery truck a year later, and served 63 households. That number jumped to 536 households by 2012.

That year alone included collected donations from 446 private homes, and arrangements with hotels to collect the equivalent of 600-plus hotel rooms

worth of furnishings.

"We've been getting on more people's radar the last few years... we're getting busier and busier," Dakin said. "Where we are at on Ontario St. is giving us a lot more exposure."

Dakin said the bank is jam-packed.

A workshop has also been set up next door for youth interns and volunteers to refinish and provide small repairs to furniture.

Niagara Furniture Bank is run by a board of directors. Its website states it has received funding from various sources, including Niagara Region's Niagara Prosperity Initiative, Ontario Trillium Foundation and United Way Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie.

The Niagara Community Foundation also granted \$8,798 last year to build the workshop. In previous years, the foundation has provided grants toward

## WHAT CAN BE DONATED

Items in good repair

Think about basic items needed in a new apartment like a toaster, bed, table, chairs and bookshelf.

Items can be dropped off at the rear of the site at 53 Ontario St. from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. By phoning 905-682-6371, a pickup can usually be scheduled within a week.

Niagara Furniture Bank can send a truck to a home pickup. If the items are "curbside ready" — in the garage or other sheltered spot outside your home — they will collect up to five large pieces for \$35 (which covers cost of truck and drivers).

A tax receipt is issued for the fair market value of the furniture.

equipment it needs to refurbish, move and clean donated furnishings.

Dakin said the feedback from client referrals has been heart-rending.

"We helped out a family that lost everything in a fire," he said. "Others have left abusive relationships, where a mother and son took what they had and ran."

"Typically, we don't know their stories."

The bank charges \$225 for whatever items are needed in a referral, or \$340 for a family of two or more. The referring agency may pick up some or all of the costs.

Two furniture bank summer workers — both Brock University students — have been the impact the deliveries have had.

"It feels good giving back to the community, and it's an unconventional way," said Kedar Patel, 22, from Brantford. "It's a unique experience... and it's nice to see it."

Chip McCormick, 21, from Bloomington, Ind. remembers hauling furniture to a family by truck.

"There were all these little kids and they were so happy to get furniture from us," McCormick said. "I felt kind of happy, it was a rewarding experience."



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## ■ NOT ALL VICTIMS REPORT CRIMES TO POLICE

# Justice for sex trade workers

ALISON LANGLEY  
Postmedia Network

Her reasons for selling her body on seedy Niagara streets are her own.

Poverty might have driven her to prostitution. Perhaps she needed quick cash to fuel an all-consuming drug addiction. Maybe she was being forced against her will to succumb to the desires of strangers.

She may consented to sex, but she never consented to being violently assaulted.

"She is somebody's daughter, somebody's sister, somebody's wife," said Deb Nanson, an advocate for the safety of women working in the sex trade and program director with Terry's Evergreen Addiction Recovery Services.

"Sex work is what she does. It is not who she is."

On July 7, a sex trade worker was walking in the Gale Cres./Queenston St. area of St. Catharines when she was

approached by a male.

The woman agreed to accompany the man and he drove to a nearby location.

After they arrived, the man viciously attacked her.

"He attacked her almost immediately and it was a very serious assault," said Det. Brian Essery, of the Niagara Regional Police sexual assault unit.

She struggled to get away and cried out for help.

"Her screams were overheard by a witness in a nearby residence and the witness contacted police," the detective said.

The man fled before police arrived.

Four days later, a Niagara Falls man was arrested and charged with a slew of offences including sexual assault, forcible confinement and dangerous driving.

Tyler Woods, 22, was released on bail in July. Conditions of his release include that he abide by a curfew and he not be in the driver's seat of a vehicle unless his surety is with him.

He'll return to court in St. Catharines in August to answer to the charges.

Meanwhile, the victim, a woman in her 20s, continues to recover from the attack.

In all likelihood, whatever demons are haunting her have forced her to return to the streets.

"I don't think she gets up every day and says 'Well, I'm going to do this again.' But she might not have a choice," Nanson said. "What do you expect her to do?"

Nanson, a former sex trade worker, understands.

"When I was a child I wanted to be a lawyer," she said.

"I didn't wake up every morning and say I think I'm going to stand on Gale Cres. and turn tricks and hope somebody picks me up and tries to take my life."

Nanson credits local police with making a quick arrest in the case. She said many sex trade workers who are victims of violence never report the incidents to police.

"I hope they continue to treat these women as human beings and not just sex trade workers," she said. "No means no. No matter what your circumstances are." Essery agreed.

"When we have a sex trade worker come forward we take it very seriously as a unit but, unfortunately, they don't all come forward," he said.

"These women are so vulnerable."

Working in the sex trade makes them a vulnerable target and predators count on the fact they are not likely to report any crimes against them.

The five-member police unit investigates sex-related matters involving complainants 16 and over. Cases involving children under 16 are handled by the NRP child abuse unit.

Essery and his colleagues have investigated a number of cases where men have attacked prostitutes and escorts.

## NIAGARA REGIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

Crisis Line  
905-682-4584  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
Confidential and anonymous

## NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT PROGRAM

Regional service provides immediate, confidential, and individualized treatment to females or males who have recently been sexually assaulted

Located at the emergency department of the St. Catharines hospital.

Counseling is recommended to all clients who are recent victims of sexual assault. For requests and referrals, call 905-378-4647 ext. 45300.

## BAD DATE LINE

1-888-818-4808  
An anonymous toll-free message service that lets sex trade workers record information about abusive customers.

"I don't think it's rare," he said. "I think it's a lot more common than we hear about."

In some cases, the violence escalates to murder.

Stephane Beck, a 29-year-old St. Catharines resident, was strangled to death in March 2007.

Wayne Ryzak, also of St. Catharines, was later convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to one day in jail. The sentence was in addition to time Ryzak had already served in jail since his arrest — time the judge said was equivalent to 30 months.

Michael Durant, of Niagara Falls, was convicted in 2012 to two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of Diane Dimitri in 2003 and 22-year-old Cassy Chiochki in 2006.

He was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

The unit, through its various community partners such as the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre and the Niagara Health System's sexual assault/domestic violence treatment program, works to keep the lines of communication open between officers and sex trade workers, said Det. Sgt. Margaret Devine, the head of the unit.

Victims can also report an incident anonymously through the Bad Date Line — 1-888-818-4808 — a toll-free message service that lets sex trade workers record information about abusive customers.

Meanwhile, police continue to investigate the July attack in St. Catharines. Anyone with information on the matter can call 905-688-4111 ext. 5125.

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## ■ CLOSEUP

# Hope for abused men of childhood sexual assault

**CHELYNNE NETWORK**  
Postmedia Network

He kept it a secret for 40 years. Told no one. Stuffed it into an internal suitcase, closed the lid and locked it up.

Three years of his childhood.

The hay loft.

The old man with whiskey on his breath.

The whiskers.

A 40-year-old body on top of a 10-year-old boy.

The money.

He thought he was the only one.

So he lived as if never happened, or so he thought. But over the years, the sexual abuse he endured in his childhood seeped out into his life like leachate from a dump.

It was toxic. It infected his body, his life and indeed his very soul. In ways even he didn't completely understand or realize. He felt uncontrollable outbursts of anger. He abused alcohol and drugs. He had trouble connecting with his wife. He suffered from inflammatory bowel syndrome. Depression. And remorse for his anger. He had no self esteem. And he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder.

And yet, he didn't connect his broken life to the years of abuse as a child.

Rob Witte of Fonthill is 57 years old. A husband, father of two. He was 10 years old when the abuse started; 13 when it ended, just before he entered high school.

Three years ago he joined Hope for Men, a support group for men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

It was here, among men who cried with him because they've felt the same pain, and whose stories he listened to with a sad understanding, that he dared himself to open the suitcase a crack.

"I had stuffed it and thought it was a good job at burying it," he said. "It was eating me from the inside," he says.

On this Tuesday night, he sits with three other men inside a small building that overlooks the Welland Canal Trail along Bunting Rd. in St. Catharines. They meet here every week, to share a part of their lives that even the people closest to them can't understand, and who listen and talk. Heal. And find hope.

The group was founded by Glenn Allan, a survivor-turned-advocate of childhood sexual abuse. His journey

began at age seven, when he fell on the ice during a public skate and was taken to the first aid room by an ice monitor. The man pulled the door shut and asked Glenn to pull down his pants so he could get a better look at his scrotum.

Then the man lowered his own pants. And underwear. And masturbated, pulling down Glenn's underwear and touching his genitals.

The man became Glenn's hockey and baseball coach and the abuse continued for eight years. In the coach's van. On the baseball diamond at night. In hotel rooms on road trips. In the passenger seat of his car as he drove Glenn to a game.

Men men call about Hope for Men — there are groups in St. Catharines, Hamilton and so on, Brantford — they get Glenn. The men here say the group is safe. A place to feel grounded to address and be real. "No macho crap," says one.

It's not a program for women, adapted to men. It's about men.

Men's programs for men, says Tom Wilken, author of *Rebuilding Your House of Self-Respect*. He has worked as a counsellor for abused men at a crisis centre in Chatham and in the probation and parole system with offenders. And for eight years he ran the Silence to Hope program for male survivors, until funding ended last year.

Men face different issues in their recovery than women and there needs to be programs specifically for men, he says. Starting with counsellors trained to address and understand the consequences of abuse that include anger, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual identity issues, definitions of masculinity and incarceration.

In his role as a probation and parole officer, he saw more victims of childhood sexual abuse than he did as a counsellor with men's programs.

"In the past, the sexual assault crisis centre for women is the last place they would go to call," he says.

The men in Glenn's Hope for Men group have the awkwardness they're feeling sitting in a waiting room for counselling at a crisis centre for women, and the fears and questions that weren't addressed by counsellors. At a guy? Will I become an abuser? Will I harm my children?

Indeed, there exists a gen-

eral disbelieve that men can be victims of assault, says Glenn.

"What they don't see is the little boy," he says.

Statistics from the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness show one in five boys, and one in three girls, will be sexually abused before they turn 18. Glenn is convinced there are significantly more boys, especially younger ones, that are not reported because of fear, stigma and lack of resources, because men die by suicide without ever telling authorities about the abuse, and because of the numerous cases in the courts of pedophiles with likely multiple victims, most who never come forward.

"How many aren't counted?" he says.

Up to age 12, boys are just as often victimized as girls, says Glenn. Even in every three.

"Even babies?" asks a man in the group.

"Yes Christ," says Glenn.

"Jesus Christ," says Glenn.

Rob was 10 years old, to be told by a man he knew as "the whisper under the breath," "Whiskers" said another.

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Slenderly.

Sexual abuse is about power and control, says Glenn. Boys are groomed. The perpetrator carefully builds a trusting relationship, and then manipulates their vulnerabilities so he doesn't snitch.

You had an erection so you enjoyed it, too.

Everyone will think you're gay.

The abuse to Rob continued until one day, just before starting high school, he was so terrified his friends would find out, that he visited the hay loft one last time. He was bigger, faster than the man, and he took the money and fled.

Eventually, though, the demons caught up to him.

He drank to keep his suicidal thoughts. To stop the shame and guilt from bleeding out. His veneer was bad-ass yet he secretly wondered, Am I gay? Will I become an abuser myself? Will I be a pedophile?

He wanted to be a pedophile. He wanted to be a pedophile. He wanted to be a pedophile. He wanted to be a pedophile.

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## HOPE FOR MEN

To learn more about Glenn Allan and his group for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, visit <http://hopeformen.ca> or 905-975-6455.

### Male and female survivors of sexual abuse

What's similar:

More likely to be abused by someone they know.

Perpetrator most often a heterosexual male.

Perpetrator holds power and control over the victim, and is in a position of trust.

Survivors may struggle with depression, low self-esteem, blame, anxiety, relationship troubles, a tendency to be over-

controlled or too submissive, an inability to trust oneself and others, problems

defining healthy sexuality, self-destructive behaviours including suicide, dealing with anger, stress related illnesses, dissociated feelings, eating disorders, acting out sexually.

What's different:

Mostly female concerns: Greater chance abuse takes place in the home, by someone related to the victim.

Survivors are at greater risk of abusing alcohol.

Increased chance of being re-victimized as teenagers and young adults.

More likely to receive

support when dealing with recovery issues.

Compared to men, women deal with sadness and depression in the early stages of recovery. Their anger surfaces later in the healing process.

Among victims of childhood sexual abuse, girls are fondled more often than boys.

Mostly male concerns: Boys are more often abused by teachers, coaches and baby sitters.

Survivors struggle with their sexual identity and fears of homosexuality.

Male survivors and their parents are more likely to minimize the impact of the sexual abuse.

Male survivors are more likely to abuse drugs.

Boys are more likely to be sodomized than girls.

Men are likely to experience anger and rage in the early stages of recovery. Feelings of grief tend to surface later in the healing process. Men have more struggles with feelings of powerlessness, and the chances of active and violent revenge fantasies are greater.

Source: Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Health Canada. A report by Tom Wilken. For more information on Hope for Men, visit <http://hopeformen.ca>

said kid," he says. "I know him well and he knows me well."

"To me, acting out abuse, that's where I stopped. And then I became how I am now, something that I created to insulate him."

Two years ago, Jeff, a welder, had planned to hang himself at his workplace in Oakville. As he sat in the parking lot, he opened his phone and saw a photograph of his wife and young son.

He didn't go into the building. Couldn't.

He remembers putting his car into drive and somehow ended up in downtown Hamilton, crying into his hands in a Tim Hortons parking lot. He called a crisis helpline and drove himself to a mental health centre, where he saw a counsellor. Glenn met him there, picked him up and they spent the next two hours talking in Glenn's van.

There are moments these days, when Jeff imagines a different photograph. A picture of his four-year-old son in a farmhouse, years before the abuse. He's standing in the front yard in shorts and a T-shirt, thumbs

raised in a Fonzie from *Happy Days*, Aaayy.

"It's not a time when he's happy now," says Jeff. "He was never happy before."

"And that's what I get from this group."

Rob tells the men how the group has changed his life. "It's not totally gone. It's not totally gone. And that's why I come to the group."

He remains on a recovery journey. But he has hope.

"For 40 years I kept it quiet. I mean sit and talk about a 10-year-old boy and a 40-year-old man with whiskey on his breath and whiskers on his face, kissing me on the hay

stump. I tell you that there's no shame around."

"That part is gone."

cheryl.dook@sunmedia.ca

# College students staging beer festival

**JULIE JOCSAK**

Postmedia Network

Niagara College students will be

going public with their pints at a student-organized craft beer festival on Friday.

In the second installment of Project Brew, the final project for Niagara College brewmaster and

brewery operations students, St. Catharines Market Square will be taken over by 17 students showcasing their craft beer creations.

They will serve student-crafted beers including Bohemian pilsner, Belgian tripel, wheat IPA, kolsch, saison, rye, lager, wheat wine, mal liquor and oatmeal stout.

All of the students are enrolled in the Brewmaster program.

They are not only creating the 17 craft beers that will be available, they're creating the event themselves.

"We are hosting, as our class project for marketing sales and promotions," said Lucas Goetzen, a second-year brewmaster student. "At the event, we are featuring our beers that we do for our practical brewing course."

"It's just for the graduating class. We each had to brew and design our own beer and then we are presenting those at the event."

Said Mike Hueflein, a second-year student: "We pitched two ideas to our teacher."

"One idea was to have a speakers' at Benchmark and just invite industry friends that we could promote our beer to the industry to help us gain traction."

"And the second idea was to have a beer festival in market square, which seemed more fun. It's more out in the open. The public could come in and try your beer."

He added that by opening it to the public, visitors can "give you feedback right away of what the public actually wants to drink, as opposed to just people in the industry who sometimes want more different and sometimes very specific types of beer."

The public can come out for the beer, live

music and food vendors from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The price includes a branded glass and five drink tickets.

Additional drink tickets can be purchased for \$3 each. Tickets can be bought at the time of [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), search Project Brew.

"We are hoping for 550 people to show up," Hueflein said. "There is a limited number of tickets because we can't let more than 550 people in."

It's all part of the learning process for the students — not just brewing, but organizing the festival to offer their creations.

"Learning how to set up a beer festival and knowing how to set up an event like this, knowing what licences you need, and what regulations you need to follow," said Goetzen.

"It's great for us because it's a chance for us to see the other side of a beer festival and knowing how to set up an event like this, knowing what licences you need, and what regulations you need to follow," said Goetzen.

"The great for us because it's a chance for us to see the other side of a beer festival and knowing how to set up an event like this, knowing what licences you need, and what regulations you need to follow," said Goetzen.

Project Brew will see a reboot three times a year, one for each term that will be graduating.

Each rendition will be different. Different beer, different venue, different ideas, different students.

"It is going to be hosted and designed by the class that is graduating that semester," said Goetzen. "Our own beer, from scratch. We design the recipe, do all the calculations to make sure we hit certain targets during the process."

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### ■ PARKING

# Free parking upheld on West St.

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne councillors sided with businesses along West St., rather than residential property owners who asked for parking permits instead of free street-side parking.

"It was a tough call," said Mayor John Maloney. "If you allowed permit parking for all those who would be entitled to it, in fact there wouldn't be any spaces available for retailers or anyone who wish to just come down and walk along the canal promenade."

Last Monday, councillors approved a report recommending against allowing residential permit parking in the area.

"It was a difficult decision to make ... but council stood behind the staff report," which recommended allowing two-hour free parking on West St.

In April, West St. residents asked the city to provide permits to allow them to park their vehicles on West St. for longer than the one or two hours of free parking allotted in the area.

But the local Business Improvement Area opposed the idea of allow-

ing permit parking for residents, saying there was already accessible free parking located in close proximity to downtown residential units.

Maloney said there were no community representatives at the council meeting advocating in favour of the residential parking permit.

"They may have seen the staff report and accepted the reasoning of the staff report," Maloney said.

### New bylaw officers for Port Colborne

Two new bylaw enforcement officers will soon be patrolling the streets of the city.

Port Colborne council approved hiring two new enforcement officers to fill two vacancies in the department.

Travis Morden was appointed as a municipal law enforcement officer; property standards officer and weed inspector for the city; Lee Meller was hired as a municipal law-enforcement officer.

Morden's position with the city will begin Aug. 10.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca  
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## ■ SHAW FESTIVAL

# Shaw would give his blessing

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

There may not be a more appropriate show for the Shaw Festival's 'Jackie Maxwell Era' than the one that opened recently.

As Maxwell winds down her 14-year run as the company's artistic director (next season is her last), the full breadth of her tenure can be felt in Quebec playwright Michel Marc Bouchard's *The Divine*. For one thing, it's a brand new play, commissioned by the Shaw and written by a guy who's still alive — two things you rarely saw before Maxwell arrived. And while it maintains the spirit of George Bernard Shaw, it has a modern style and sensibility which shows the company has swept away any remaining cobwebs.

More than anything, Maxwell will be remembered as the bridge between two Shaw eras, and it's all here in this stirring world premiere. Bouchard presents a classic Shaw scenario rife with debate about poverty, the church and the importance of culture in society. Maxwell directs it with an assured hand. The cast, led by the great Fiona Reid, seems invigorated performing a brand new work. It's one of the best shows of the season, and certainly a symbolic one: You can do Shaw without trotting out the same old plays.

Bouchard, whose *The Coronation Voyage* was part of Maxwell's first season in 2003, builds the story around flamboyant actress Sarah Bernhardt's volatile visit to Quebec City in 1905, when the city's archbishop tried to ban her from performing. At the prestigious Grand Seminary, Michaud, son of the province's minister of finance, is given the task of delivering the news to her. The problem? He's a huge fan and can't bear the thought of disappointing her.

Not so for new arrival Talbot (Wade Robert O'Brien), who can't understand his love of people standing on stage

pretending: "Theatre's just a bunch of stories invented to make rich people cry."

Talbot brings plenty of baggage to the seminary. He left his previous church after a mysterious violent incident, and both his mother (Mary Hanev) and younger brother (Kyle Orzech) work slave labour at the local shoe factory. The factory was recently rocked by the deaths of two young girls whose hair got caught in the machinery. That, and his blatant violation of child labour laws, is of no consequence to the vile factory owner, played with stellar sleaze by Ric Reid.

We're three acts into the play before we even meet Sarah Bernhardt (Fiona Reid), a fact the script acknowledges with a wink. Though she appears a worn-out diva at first, the actress takes the Archbishop's scolding as a challenge to defend culture against the church. It's a Shavian debate Bouchard relishes, reeling off several great zingers Friday's opening night audience loved, even when they cut close to home.

There's so much good stuff going on here, it's easy to overlook the second great performance of the season from Martin Happer, who follows his comic villainy in Peter and the Starcatcher with something far more dark as the seminary's stern Brother Casgrain. To him, theatre is the acceptance of lies, a Trojan horse for sin. How hypocritical, he reasons, for people to support a play about poverty while sipping champagne at intermission.

Reid has long been one of Shaw's crown jewels. You can now add Happer to that list, a dynamic actor who has owned every role in his 10 seasons here. *The Divine* is ambitious in scope, impressive in execution. A lot of debate, a lot of laughs, with a gut punch near the end that lingers. It's one worth revisiting in future seasons.

john.law@summedia.ca

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